

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 AID-20 OPR-02 NIC-01 CU-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /112 W

----- 054558

R 100600Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8265

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 9568

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS,PINT,ID

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF BANDUNG RIOT

REFS: A) JAKARTA 9433 B) JAKARTA 9500

SUMMARY: BANDUNG GRADUALLY RECOVERING FROM "AUGUST 5 AFFAIR", WHICH CAUSED ESTIMATED \$2.5 TO \$5 MILLION IN PROPERTY DAMAGE AND RESULTED IN SEVERAL HUNDRED ARRESTS. NO SIGNIFICANT VIOLENCE REPORTED ELSEWHERE. WEST JAVA GOVERNOR SOLICHIN HAS CHARGED THAT PKI WAS "MASTERMIND" OF RIOT, BUT EDITORIAL AND OTHER UNOFFICIAL COMMENT CONTINUES TO LINK INCIDENTS TO ECONOMIC INJUSTICE. FOLLOWING BASED ON JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS AUGUST 9, 10. END SUMMARY

1. SITUATION IS CALM IN BANDUNG IN AFTERMATH

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OF AUGUST 5 RIOTS. SOME SECTIONS MAJOR STREETS

INCLUDING JALAN ASIA-AFRICA AND JALAN BRAGA
REMAINED CLOSED UNTIL MID-WEEK AND MOST
CHINESE SHOPS ARE STILL BOARDED UP. OFFICIAL
ESTIMATES OF PROPERTY DAMAGE RANGE FROM \$2.5
TO \$5 MILLION, BUT OTHER ESTIMATES HIGHER.
SOME NON-CHINESE SHOPKEEPERS HAVE REPORTEDLY
PLACED SIGNS IN SHOPFRONTS INDICATING
PAKISTANI OR INDIAN ORIGIN, FEARING FURTHER
ANTI-CHINESE OUTBURSTS. BERTA BUANA
REPORTED AUGUST 10 THAT 39 PEOPLE INJURED
IN RIOT STILL BEING TREATED IN BANDUNG HOSPITALS.

2. ACCORDING TO INDONESIA RAYA AUGUST 9,
ARMED TROOPS FROM BANDUNG GARRISON STILL POSTED IN
SEVERAL BUSY AREAS OF CITY, ALTHOUGH TANKS
BROUGHT OUT DURING RIOT HAVE BEEN REMOVED.
RAYA ALSO REPORTED 200 ETHNIC CHINESE UNDER
POLICE PROTECTION, AND THAT HOTELS ARE FULL OF
"REFUGEES" WHO ARE AFRAID TO RETURN TO HOMES.

3. ACCORDING TO BANDUNG POLICE SOURCES CITED
IN BERITA BUANA AUGUST 10, 248 SUSPECTS STILL
BEING HELD, OUT OF OVER 300 ARRESTED IN
CONNECTION WITH RIOT. MERDEKA REPORTED
AUGUST 9 THAT ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF SURONO
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ONE ARMY INDIVIDUAL APPARENTLY
TOOK PART IN RIOT AND WILL BE PUNISHED IF THIS
CONFIRMED.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONFIRMED REPORTS OF
SIGNIFICANT VIOLENCE ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY
SINCE OUTBURST IN BANDUNG. MEDAN CONSULATE
REPORTS ALL QUIET THERE. HARIAN KAMI REPORTED
AUGUST 9 THAT CHINESE SHOPS IN WEST JAVA CITY
OF CIREBON STILL SHUT WEDNESDAY. IN JAKARTA
POLICE HAVE CANCELLED PLANS FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS
PARADE IN WHICH 5000 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE TO PARTICIPATE.

5. EARLY THIS WEEK FOLLOWING SUNDAY'S RIOT IN
BANDUNG, KOPKAMTIB CHIEF SUMITRO MADE BRIEF
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INSPECTION TRIP TO BANDUNG ACCOMPANIED BY
ATTORNEY GENERAL ALI SAID AND NATIONAL POLICE
COMMANDER HASSAN. SAID TOLD PRESS AUGUST 8
AFTER HIS RETURN TO JAKARTA THAT RIOT WAS NOT
ENTIRELY SPONTANEOUS AND WAS INSTIGATED AND
EXPLOITED BY ELEMENTS WHICH HE DID NOT IDENTIFY.
SAID STRESSED THAT RIOT DID NOT REPRESENT
"RACIALISM". WEST JAVA GOVERNOR SOLICHIN TOLD

PRESS, AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO AUGUST 9 TO DISCUSS RIOT, THAT HE WAS CONVINCED INCIDENT WAS "MASTERMINDED" BY PKI, ALTHOUGH HE SAID TOP LEADERS NOT YET IDENTIFIED. SOLICHIN ALSO SAID BANDUNG INCIDENT WOULD DAMAGE FOREIGN INVESTOR ATTITUDES TOWARD INDONESIA IF CONFIDENCE NOT QUICKLY RESTORED.

6. CRITICAL EDITORIALS IN MOST INDEPENDENT JAKARTA PAPERS CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC INJUSTICE AS ORIGIN OF RIOT, ALTHOUGH MOSLEM ABADI AND NUSANTARA HAVE ALSO PLAYED UP ANTI-CHINESE ASPECT. INDONESIA RAYA EDITORIAL AUGUST 9 BLAMED GOVERNMENT FOR INCORRECT STATEMENT BY SPOKESMAN CONCERNING EXTENT OF DAMAGE.

7. PROMINENT JAKARTA LAWYER AND LEGAL AID LEADER BUYUNG NASUTION TOLD INDONESIA RAYA INTERVIEWER AUGUST 8 THAT RIOT WAS MANIFESTATION OF DISSATISFACTION OF MASSES OVER UNJUST GAP BETWEEN THEM AND WEALTHY ELITE. BUYUNG CONDEMNED VIOLENCE, BUT EXPRESSED FEAR IT WOULD EXPLODE AGAIN AND BECOME "NATIONAL DISASTER" IF GREATER ECONOMIC JUSTICE NOT ACHIEVED. INSTITUTE OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUED STATEMENT SIGNED BY ATTORNEY YAP HAM THIEN AND H.J.C. PRINCEN DEPLORING RIOT IN SIMILAR LANGUAGE. (YAP AND PRINCEN WERE PROMINENT IN VARIOUS PROTEST MOVEMENTS OF 1968-72, BUT HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY SILENT SINCE PRINCEN WAS DETAINED FOR ONE MONTH IN EARLY 1972 AFTER "MINIATURE INDONESIA" DEMONSTRATION). ECONOMIC INJUSTICE EXPLANATION UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR RIOT ALSO CITED BY HARIMAN SIREGAR, HEAD OF UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA STUDENT COUNCIL, IN STATEMENT REPORTED IN HARIAN KAMI AUGUST 10. SIREGAR DEPLORED VIOLENCE AND SAID INCIDENT WAS TEST CASE FOR GOVERNMENT TO ANSWER PROBLEMS OF INJUSTICE, CUKONGISM, AND PLIGHT OF DOMESTIC ENTREPRENEURS. HARIAN KAMI REPORTED AUGUST 9 THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAD BANNED PUBLICATION IN BANDUNG PRESS OF SIMILAR STATEMENT RELATING RIOTS TO SOCIAL INJUSTICE ISSUED EARLIER IN WEEK BY BANDUNG UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUP. (REF B PARA 3).
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